GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2094
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2008
CHIRIA MINES FOR SAIL
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in Business Line on January 02, 2008 captioned, `SAIL plans to go awry if denied Chiria mines`;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c): Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has 6 mining leases in Chiria and 4 at Gua with an estimated Iron Ore reserve of 2 billion tonnes. All these mining leases were originally granted to Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited (IISCO), and have been in operation for the last five decades. Out of the 10 leases, the renewal of 4 leases is under dispute with the Government of Jharkhand and is at present pending before the Courts.
SAIL`s current reserves in the state of Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are much less than its requirement of 5,736 million tonnes of iron ore in the next 50 years. Out of this total requirement, 2710 million tonnes of Iron Ore are required for SAIL`s Brownfield and Greenfield Plants in Jharkhand. Therefore, the Chiria and Gua mines are absolutely vital for SAIL`s future growth plans, especially within the State of Jharkhand.
Vigorous efforts are also being made with the State Government of Jharkhand at appropriate levels in the Government of India to resolve the matter amicably out of court.